

LOCAL MATTERS.
THE COMMITTEE OF SAFETY.

Gen. Stoneman Interviewed.

Thursday evening of last week a mass meeting of the citizens was held at the court-house for the purpose of considering the recent depredations by Indians and to decide upon such means as might be regarded expedient, to protect themselves, in the absence of military protection.

A committee of 27 members selected from the people present, to be known as a "Committee of Safety" were appointed, out of which a sub-committee of five were chosen, to proceed to Florence, immediately, there to meet and confer with Gen. Stoneman, obtain his present views upon this Indian question, and report to the grand committee. With full instructions, the sub-committee started for Florence on Friday, and on Saturday presented their documents to the General and a fair statement of their business. The General seemed much surprised upon reading the report presented by the committee, of the number of Indian depredations committed during the term of his absence in California. The report, which was copy from the report of the sub-committee will best explain the result of the interview:

The committee met Gen. Stoneman on the evening of the 21st inst., at the house of Thompson, a short distance below Florence, on the Gila river, where, in a conference of several hours duration, the views and intentions of the General were stated in substance, as follows: That some time during the last summer a memorial was presented to him, purporting to have been gotten up and signed by the people of Tabac and those living in the Cruz valley. This memorial was signed by names, and the instrument stated that it was only half of what could be obtained. He concluded that a community represented by men could take care of itself. He was pleased, however, that now there were no number of persons in the valley of the Cruz. * * * * * that the people of Tucson and vicinity could not expect more than had been done already; that only sufficient horses at his command to send one cavalryman in every five; that 31 cavalry had been sent from the East, broken-down horses, entirely unfit for main service, to replace the 8th cavalry who was admirably mounted on young California horses peculiarly adapted for the work of them. He regretted that he was hampered as to his means to do the expected of him, and that, in fact, among things, that heretofore there was an expenditure allowed of \$130.00 per man in the army, and that he was now limited to \$10.00 and could not exceed the appropriation although he could not reinforce the army now serving in the Southern part of the Territory, he would not withdraw any, but as Capt. Moore's company of Cavalry can be mounted on the horses now used by Co. C, they shall be kept scouting the borders of the Santa Cruz and Sonoita and Camp Crittenden should be occupied under the harvest. The General further stated that his order for a vigorous prosecution of the campaign against the Apaches was unfavorably criticised by the Eastern Government to the extent of having the President suggest to Gen. Sherman that he should that the order should be so modified as to correspond with the intentions of the administration in its Indian policy viz: One of leniency and kindness, looking to their civilization. He informed us that one of the whole army was now stationed in Arizona; a greater proportion than we had to expect, and cautioned the people that a continuance of their complaint of the lack of protection by the military would have the effect to have the troops withdrawn; that the subject had been contemplated, and might yet be acted upon. The pith and substance of the matter as your Committee understand Gen. Stoneman is, that we can expect more from him than has been done, and say nothing further is expected we must depend upon our own efforts for its consummation.

Such is the result of the interview and in our opinion it is about as unsatisfactory as the most disgusted could have expected. One point, however, is at rest; that if the people of Arizona would have protection they must not look to Gen. Stoneman to obtain it.

At a mass meeting, on Thursday evening, H. S. Stevens Chairman, H. S. Hinds, Saml. Hughes and D. A. Bennett were elected a committee to superintend the work of raising a volunteer force to carry on a 3-months campaign against the Apaches.

FLORENCE A PARADISE:—The gentlemen who visited Florence last week, as members of a committee referred to elsewhere, speak in about the strongest terms that language can express, regarding the matchless landscape beauty of the Gila valley at the town of Florence. The general plan of the embryo city is remarkable for regularity. The streets are embellished on either side by regular rows of trees whose tangled foliage, besides forming an effective shelter from the fierce mid-day heat is the favorite resort of innumerable singing birds that warble gratuitously to the Florentines during the hours of day. In one continued expense extending along the valley for a distance of 15 miles, with the river winding through its midst, lies the settlement of Florence, dotted with comfortable cabins and giving forth the thousand and one sounds which bespeak the presence of civilization and rural comfort. The prospects of the inhabitants were never more promising than at present; and surrounded by all that can please the eye and contribute to comfort they are about the happiest community in Arizona.

Letter from Ralston.

The proceedings of a meeting held at Ralston, to celebrate the passage of "the Railroad Bill" have been forwarded to us for publication. We are free, however, to retain our own opinions with regard to the "generous and far-seeing Congress," although the railroad bill was very properly considered. However, men are seldom disposed to find fault at the time they feel happiest; so we can readily overlook the no-such-thing above quoted. The following is the article sent us:

RALSTON, N. M., March 22, 1871.

The mail from the West arrived at 4 p. m., and brought the cheering news of the passage of the Texas Pacific Railroad Bill, and at dark the entire city was in brilliant illumination. Every house reflected the joy of its occupants and every street sent up the glowing light of bonfires. A hundred guns broke the stillness of the mountains—a knell to Indian barbarism and buzzes to the march of civilization; after which a large and enthusiastic meeting was called at "Allen's Hall" for the purpose of celebrating, in a becoming manner, the passage of the Bill.

The meeting was called to order by E. W. Feet, and on motion of H. O. Rogers, Wm. Grant, Esq., was called to the Chair. A. Bowie, G. A. Savage, Parker Durnham and H. M. Meredith were elected Vice-Presidents. On motion of M. L. Power, Dr. Jno. Pintland was elected Secretary.

In a well-timed speech the President explained the object of the meeting.

On motion a committee of five were appointed to draft resolutions expressing the sense of the meeting.

The following were submitted and adopted:

Whereas, A generous and far-seeing Congress has given to the nation another highway joining the East and the West by bands of iron, and has designated the route that will eventually bring the unprecedented mineral region of which Ralston is the representative town, in direct communication with the outside world, Therefore, be it

Resolved, That the thanks of the people of the whole United States are due to Congress for the passage of the Texas Pacific R. R. Bill.

Resolved, That all honor is due the pioneers and promoters of the 32d parallel route, the officers of the United States Army who first made known its merits, and every body who lent a helping-hand to the great enterprise.

Resolved, That the citizens of Ralston do manifest their gratitude to Marshall O. Roberts, Esq., and associates for assuming the direction of this enterprise; That we have ample reason to anticipate the speedy completion of the road from either terminus to this point; That Ralston will witness the happy iron wedding; That here the last, a silver spike, will be driven, adjusting the last link and completing the chain of wonders.

Resolved, That these resolutions be published in the papers of this Territory, San Diego Union, and Alta California.

We condense the following from the concluding part:

The adoption of these resolutions was followed by speeches from several distinguished gentlemen. The first was by M. L. Power, whose sentiment, "New Mexico: the passage of the Texas Pacific Railroad Bill is the dawning of her prosperity," was responded to by Capt. Jno. S. Cruick, who, in a forcible and eloquent speech referred to the wonderful mineral resources of New Mexico, and predicted a bright future for that Territory and Southern Arizona, when the hostile Indian should no longer interpose a barrier in the pathway of immigration.

These remarks were followed by others from Messrs. Rogers, Feet, Pintland, Schwarz and others, at the conclusion of which the meeting adjourned.

On Saturday morning last a band of Apaches which has its stronghold in the Santa Caterina mountains descended to a rancho in this valley, and about five miles from town, and ran off some ten head of stock. A party of Mexicans went in pursuit, but failed to catch up with the thieves. This nest is less than twenty-five miles from Tucson and should be broken up.

A hunting party returned to town on Sunday after an absence of five days. Besides a goodly force of deer and turkeys which they readily vanquished in battle, they discovered, first Apache signs and then Apaches, and feeling that discretion were the better part of valor, abandoned the chase and saved their "hair."

Col. Lee, A. Q. M., U. S. A. returned from California on Tuesday.

A party of Mexicans returned last week from the Saguarito placer mines—some 35 miles from Tucson. Besides a few ounces of very coarse gold, procured by washing, they exhibit a piece of quartz, weighing two ounces, more than half of which, by bulk, is free gold. This wonderful specimen was found at a short distance from a quartz ledge which appears to be the source of the placer. Another such specimen may not, perhaps, exist in the entire ledge, which, to all appearance, is only of ordinary value.

PIKE:—Florence has a "character" whose name is Pike. After the committee from this town had interviewed Gen. Stoneman, Mr. Pike concluded to have an interview with the General, on his own account.

"How would it be General," said Pike, "suppose we here should raise a party, go to Grant, and kill off all your d—d Indians."

"Well, it would be," replied the General, "that I should send my soldiers after you."

"Haw-haw!" exclaimed Pike, indulging in a hearty laugh, "Do you think, General, that we couldn't fight at least as well as Indians?"

The General saw the "point."

This is the same Pike who, during the late election campaign, as McCormick and Safford were about to proceed from Florence, Northward, walked up to the carriage in which they were seated, when the following dialogue ensued:

McCormick—Good-bye Mr. Pike; sorry you're not with me, sir.

Safford—Good-bye Mr. Pike; them's my sentiments.

Pike—Good-bye gentlemen; but you must have forgotten something—indeed you must.

McCormick—O, thank you Mr. P., but really I—I—

Safford—Well, I—aw—that is, I really don't recollect. What is it Mr. Pike?

Pike—Oh, perhaps I mistake; but it strikes me that there should be two carpet-bags swinging at the sides of this carriage.

THE RING:—Mr. F. is a freighter and Mr. T. is a merchant. Both gentlemen are muscular and high-mettled. On Thursday last F. called at T.'s place of business to square up some old book accounts, and the settlement broke up in a row, "thusly."

Round First—T. makes a pass for the counter and gets home without difficulty. This was simply a demonstration intended to produce a sound calculated to give effect to a charge of falsehood directed against F.

Round Second—F. gets home with his right fist on the palm of his own left hand. This was but a demonstration that told peculiar emphasis upon a threat to examine the inside of T's skull.

Round Third—F. by a dexterous motion of the muscles of the neck, brought his jaw bone in contact with a two-pound metallic weight which T. playfully hurled at his head.

Round Fourth—Time was called by an urobin across the street, when T. very good-naturedly placed his glossy whiskers in F's grasp, and got home with his nose on F's right fist.

The by-standers rushing in, placed his trophy, a handful of captured whiskers, in his vest pocket and, we understand, considers the account partly settled.

Sam Raglan, a peace officer, got drunk on Thursday last and tried to shoot Mr. Schoblin. The latter sprang upon and disarmed his assailant, threw him out of his store and pummeled him badly on the side-walk. Raglan was sent to jail.

P. B. BAIN
PHOTOGRAPHIC ARTIST.
Gallery on Hodges Street, opposite the residence of Major M. Aldridge.
Tucson, March 23, '70. tf.

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